



## **Summary of Discussions during the Open Business Meeting held as part of the ISPRS Centenary Celebrations in Vienna Austria on 3 July 2010**

### **1. Agenda**

1. Congratulation speeches by ISPRS.
2. Introduction of ISPRS Strategic Plan to be approved in detail at the Centenary General Assembly on 4 July 2010
3. Activities of the ISPRS Regional Representatives
4. The role of the permanent ISPRS committees - ISAC, IPAC and ICORSE
5. ISPRS publications
6. Current Structure of ISPRS Commissions
7. Organization of ISPRS Events (Workshops, Symposia. Congress etc)
8. Student Consortium
9. Other important Items

### **Opening by Orhan Altan**

President Orhan Altan opened the meeting, welcomed all present and thanked them for attending. He noted that Council required feedback from the membership on its activities so that it can improve the operations of the Society and move in a positive direction for the future, building on its achievements of the past 100 years. He described the procedural matters for the meeting and also stated that a special ceremony would be held at the end of the meeting in which Regional Members of ISPRS will sign of an agreement for closer cooperation.

### **1. Congratulation speeches – Chaired by Orhan Altan**

- **Carolyn Merry President of ASPRS** congratulated ISPRS on achieving its centenary and presented a plaque to the President
- **George Zarzycki from Canada** brought congratulations from the President and members of CIG. CIG has been a member of ISPRS for about 60 years and has hosted 6 of the 8 Technical

Commissions as well as many working groups. Dr G. Hobrough and Dr U. Helava received the Brock Gold Medal. Sam Gamble was President of ISPRS and hence CIG established the Sam Gamble Award in his honour. Canada host the Congress in Ottawa in 1972 where the first remote sensing images from space were on display following the launch of the first Landsat satellite, then known as ERTS. George himself was First Vice President for 8 years. Canada has benefited greatly from its participation in ISPRS leading to improved techniques for mapping its large land mass. Canada will continue to participate in ISPRS and congratulates it on achieving its centenary.

- **Laurent Polidori from France** stated that the French Society was established in France in 1959 and celebrated its 50 years last year with President Altan in attendance. France has played a role in the development of photogrammetry and remote sensing in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. Recently it has developed the SPOT satellite constellation. He also announced that France will bid to host the 2016 Congress.
- **Gabor Remetey-Fülöp from Hungary** brought congratulations from the Hungarian Society for Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing. He came to the Congress in Vienna in 1996 and also has returned to Vienna in 2010 to celebrate the centenary. ISPRS has had outstanding achievements over the 100 years since its foundation. He described the history of the Society in Hungary which was established in 1928 and was responsible for Technical Commissions in the early days of ISP. It was dissolved in 1956 and another society was responsible for photogrammetry and remote sensing, but it maintained contacts with ISP/ISPRS. He expressed thanks for the work of ISPRS and wished it a long life.
- **Harald Schuh representing IUGG and IAG** welcomed all participants to Vienna and expressed best wishes to ISPRS from the President and Secretary General of IUGG. He stated that IUGG is a member of the group of eight GeoUnions within ICSU. IAG which is one of the eight associations within IUGG is a sister organization of ISPRS. The President and Vice President of IAG, express their congratulations to ISPRS. The associations in IUGG are working with geospatial data as a common activity and are in charge of monitoring the earth for such needs as global climate change. President Orhan Altan referred to the launch of the Best Practices booklet on Disaster Management at the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs on 2 July 2010. The booklet was produced by the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, which includes both ISPRS and IAG.
- Jim Weber representing ICORSE congratulated ISPRS on achieving its centenary.

## 2. Strategic Plan- Chaired by Ian Dowman

Ian Dowman presented details of the new Strategic Plan that would be presented to the Centenary General Assembly on 4 July 2010. He covered the following items:

- The process followed by the Strategic Plan Committee, outcomes and organization structure.
- The Strategy is based on:
  - Definition of the science of ISPRS - the core disciplines are photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences
  - Advancing the science of ISPRS and communicating activities to a broader market by:
    - Communicating that imagery is the key to its activities

- Engaging developing countries
- Improving the visibility of ISPRS worldwide
- Developing a marketing plan
- Expanding categories of an enlarged membership
- Organization to implement the vision - three task forces have been formed for:
  - Marketing
  - Funding
  - Widening participation
- Council will report on the progress of the Strategic Plan at the General Assembly at the 2012 Congress

**Comments:**

- There was reference to the process of double blind review of papers that has been introduced at some Symposia, Workshops and for some Commissions at the Congress.
- To be comparable with other international organizations, ISPRS should introduce reviewing of papers and indexing for easy searching, via such systems as SCOPUS.

### **3. Regional Representatives – Chaired by Ian Dowman**

The background and Terms of Reference for Regional Representatives were described. Council is now planning for regional meetings to engage more participation from the regions. The Chair introduced the Regional Representatives Myriam Ardila from Latin America, Dr Jide Kufoniyyi from Africa and Dr Nguyen Dinh Duong from Asia, and asked for comments on the Terms of Reference, the role of Regional Representatives and other activities that can be achieved with Regional Representation.

**Nguyen Dinh Duong** said that there are eight members in the Asian region. It is important for ISPRS to communicate and have closer contact with members from Asia, especially since they have problems in gaining funding for international travel. The region wishes to co-organize meetings with ISPRS.

He also stated that the region would like to hold summer schools with low registration costs for students, such as the one being held in Hanoi Vietnam this year.

**Myriam Ardila** stated that the region will be organizing a regional meeting in Chile in September 2010 and one in Mexico in November. These meetings will enable closer contact between ISPRS and the membership of the region.

**Jide Kufoniyyi** stated that since addresses change in Africa, a regional representative is an effective way of maintaining contact with African countries. AARSE, a regional member of ISPRS holds technical sessions at its biannual conferences. The region initially would like to hold seminars in conjunction with ISPRS and then perhaps regional conferences. He asked about the number of Ordinary Members from each country and whether there could be more than one Ordinary Member. He was informed that Ordinary Membership is limited to one per country, but Associate Membership is also possible.

### **4. Permanent Committees of ISPRS - Chaired by Orhan Altan**

**International Science Advisory Committee - ISAC – Chair Armin Gruen**

Armin Gruen described the purpose of ISAC, comprising 14 members, which includes identifying gaps in the scientific areas of the terms of reference of the Technical Commissions and the resolutions presented at each Congress, as well as proposing new areas of activity for the Technical Commissions. He stated that it is not an easy task, but the Committee will review the content and quality of the Symposia being held this year. The committee tried to do this for the previous Symposia period 4 years ago with limited success. Hence it has changed the membership of the Committee for this inter-Congress period. ISAC needs to include the needs of NMAs in its future activities.

#### **International Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC)**

The Chair, Rainer Sandau described the tasks covered by the Terms of Reference of the Committee. He has initiated contact with other organizations overlapping with activities of ISPRS and has prepared sessions in ISPRS meetings. The work done by the committee includes:

- Review of the ToR of the Technical Commissions
- Participation in the Science and Technology Committees of COPUOS
- Initiation of contacts and collaboration with ESPI - European Space Policy Institute
- Contacted the Russian Academy of Astronautics and will be attending its conference in Riga, Latvia the coming week
- Has organized space policy sessions at the Commission VIII Symposium in Kyoto in August 2010
- Participation in the current legal issues for the Earth observation at a conference in 2010.

#### **International Center on Remote Sensing on the Environment – ICORSE**

The representative, Jim Weber introduced the terms of Reference of ICORSE, the membership. Orhan Altan commented that better cooperation is needed between ISPRS and ICORSE.

### **5. ISPRS Publications - Chaired by Ammatzia Peled**

Ammatzia Peled introduced the list of publications of ISPRS including:

- The ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing with an impact factor of 2.308 (2.293 in 2009). It is ranked number 3 in our field. More papers are now being published in the journal.
- The Book Series. Volume 8 was published in 2009, and several are in preparation for 2011.
- e-Highlights
- GIM page
- ISPRS e-letter by the Web Master on what is new
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#### **Comments:**

- There is a need for open access journals. There is one now available on Remote Sensing.
- ISPRS Archives are very variable in quality. They need to be harmonized and placed with a publishing house so that indexing is easier
- There is a need for a journal on GI Science. There is one such journal available – IJGIS is one example that is now available. E-journals are the future direction to be considered by ISPRS.
- ISPRS lacks the organization to achieve indexing of its conference papers.

## **6. Current Structure of ISPRS Commissions – Chaired by John Trinder**

John Trinder provided the background to the development of the current structure, which was developed in 2003 and included a new Commission VIII. The structure was approved by postal vote by Members in 2003, so that the new ToRs could be introduced and bid for by Members at the 2004 Congress. The structure has been modified only slightly since 2004. It was stated that it could be argued that there could be fewer Commissions, but this would give fewer Members an opportunity to host a Commission. Also, redundancy ensured that, given that the work of Commission Presidents is largely voluntary, if one Commission did not perform, the work of ISPRS would still be maintained by other Commissions.

He stated that the purpose of the presentation was not to defend the current structure, but to solicit comments from the audience on necessary modifications.

### **Comments:**

- There are problems with the commission structure and there should be fewer commissions.
- Commission structure should be based on themes and not area as is currently the case
- There are too many symposia. Often it is necessary to attend many of the Symposia to cover one's scientific interests. There should be an ISPRS Congress every 2 years instead of the eight Symposia in the inter-Congress period.
- The word 'science' should be added to the titles of the Commissions.
- Council should look into why some Commissions are strong and others weak.
- Tony Milne representing IEEE-IGRAS proposed to publish a common journal with ISPRS; he is going to send a proposal to Orhan Altan ASAP.

## **7. Organization of ISPRS Events – Chaired by Chen Jun**

Chen Jun described the organization of the workshops, Symposia and the role of the Secretary General.

### **Comments:**

- Organisation of meetings should be more professional.
- The organization of the Symposia is a burden in Technical Commission Presidents (TCPs), since they have to approach the task without previous experience. Publication of the Archives volume has to be done afresh for all new TCPs.
- There are many issues to be learned by the TCPs including the web site, legal matters. There should be a common web site for submission of papers. A central office could manage the submission of papers etc
- Orhan Altan said that Council has investigated appropriate software for conference organization.
- WGs should be consolidated and tools are needed for standardization of WG activities
- Young people think differently and hence the structure of ISPRS needs to be designed to satisfy the ideas of the future generations.
- It is time to change the approach of ISPRS to a more service oriented organization similar to others with which participants in ISPRS are associated.

## **8. Student Consortium – Chaired by Orhan Altan**

Cemal Kivilcim, chair of the Student Consortium presented the details of the Student Consortium, which is now a formally constituted body within ISPRS, and encouraged members to support its activities.

Orhan Altan recognised Kohei Cho and Mojca Fras as strong supporters of the consortium especially for its formation.

## **9 Other Business**

Representatives of Regional Members (EARSeL, SELPER, AARS and AARSE) of ISPRS signed a MoU to formalise closer cooperation between their organizations.

John Trinder

July 2010